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The Spectator

Thursday, April 4, 2024

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Number VII

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Latest Common Ground event focused on climate, guns and borders ends in protest

by Charlotte Post '27 & Mia Antonini '26
STAFF WRITER & NEWS EDITOR

On Tuesday, April 2, Common Ground hosted, "Climate, Guns, Borders, and Beyond: How Can We Tackle Today's Biggest Issues?" in the Chapel. The goal of the event was to explore opposing political thought across party lines and discuss issues at the forefront of the minds of Americans. The event concluded with a demonstration by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

Representative Matt Cartwright '83 and former Representative Steve Russell participated in the dialogue about climate change, gun law reform, immigration, border control and reproductive rights. Mimi Geerges moderated the conversation.

Cartwright has served as a U.S. Representative in Pennsylvania since 2013, where he authorized and passed 16 successful bills into law. Cartwright graduated from Hamilton with a concentration in history, and obtained a JD from the University of Pennsylvania. He is co-chair of the Bipartisan House Military Depot Caucus, vice chair of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition as well as a member of the Democratic Steering & Policy Committee.

Russell served as a U.S. Representative in Oklahoma from 2015 to 2019, an Oklahoma State Senator from 2009 to 2013 and was an infantryman in the U.S. army. Currently the President and CEO of Jungle Aviation and Radio Service (JAARS), he is passionate about helping deliver God's Word.

Geerges has ample experience with TV and radio news. She is a guest host of C-SPAN's "Washington Journal," which discusses important issues on law-making, and has hosted "The Mimi Geerges Show" on PBS and Sirius XM.

The first topic was about gun control. Russell stated that he disagreed with the ban on assault rifles. He explained that more people die each year from other weapons and automobiles than assault weapons. Russell said that the constitution grants American citizens unalienable rights to self-defense and that we must honor the Bill of Rights. Arguing that laws alone do not solve problems, he said that we need to work on funding and supporting laws.

Cartwright added his opinion on gun control, explaining that as a gun owner he believes that guns "should not be taken away from responsible gun owners." Cartwright emphasized the tragedy of the incident at Sandy Hook and other mass shootings and said that we must work together to prohibit people from having access to firearms who should not have them.

Geerges shifted the discussion to climate change and about the federal government's role in tackling the issue. Cartwright recalled that when he began his career in Congress, Republicans were "utterly forbidden" to talk about climate change or global warming. But as climate change became "undeniable," Republicans and Democrats are talking about the issue together and moving in positive directions with sustainable energy. Responding to Geerge's question about funding to support climate change, Cartwright said that he was very pleased with the Inflation Reduction Act, which helped to promote the use of renewable energy. He also argued that America should take the lead in fighting climate change.

Russell emphasized that a healthy environment, economics and industrialization go hand in hand; the most sustainable societies are the most wealthy. Russell remarked that we foolishly think we control the climate and the earth. He said, what we can do is "adapt to good stewardship."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE COMMON GROUND

The Common Ground panelists discussed a wide array of hot-button political issues including climate change, abortion rights, gun control and immigration, among others.

While Cartwright disagreed with Russell, arguing that human activity is causing the climate crisis, he agreed that believing that innovation is the key to addressing climate change. In addressing China as the largest contributor to burning fossil fuels, he said that China not being a democracy is the problem.

The conversation shifted to talking about bitter partisanship. Russell stated that if "we find the interest that we do agree on" we can develop trust and make effective legislative decisions, citing how he and Cartwright both disagreed and agreed on many subjects and were able to pass several bills together.

Geerges brought up the issue of the southern border. Cartwright said that we need to abide by the law and believed that "an executive order is not out of place." He mentions that based on the law, a president can shut down borders during a crisis, which is what President Trump did during the pandemic and which Biden kept in place for another 28 months. "Once the pandemic was over it was no longer legal for the president to issue an executive order to close the border," Cartwright said. Russell commented that as a sovereign nation, "we have the right to protect our borders." He said that we should not be "afraid of immigration," and "find ways to solve it."

The last topic discussed was abortion rights, which Cartwright noted will be a "defining issue in politics for a very long time." He spoke against taking away reproductive rights, believing that the recent decisions to eliminate the right to abortion are "jarring." Russell, as Geerges comments, has the stance of a "rare Republican" who supports rights protecting both the mother and the baby.

The floor was then open for questions, and an audience member asked a question about the Israel-Hamas war. This student inquired about Cartwright's social media posts to Instagram that had been edited and another to Facebook that had been taken down since earlier this week that included a comparison of Israel's assault to the U.S.'s atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagaskai. The student then asked, "is there any conceivable red line the state of Israel could cross to make you withdraw support for U.S. military assistance to Israel?"

Cartwright denied knowing about the editing of the post, and asserted that he wrote the post himself, before telling the audience that he "has written no fewer than four letters to the Biden administration…urging ways to help the people in Gaza." Cartwright asserted that he was against a ceasefire and Russell stated that we don't "negotiate with terrorists" and that Israel is a "sovereign state," which resulted in audience members calling out and shouting. One student yelled for a ceasefire. Geerges tried to encourage audience members to raise their hands and give other people a chance to ask questions.

Sarafina Madden '26, a student ambassador for Common Ground, tells *The Spectator*, "this demonstration revealed to me that there is a lack of attention to the Israel-Palestine conflict on our campus and that we must, as a campus community, come together to create forums where people can formally discuss this issue. It also proved to me that civil discourse and engaging with people who disagree with you is the only way that we will chart the path ahead on such difficult issues such as the Israel-Paelstine conflict."

Some SJP students sat on the second level of the Chapel and hung a Palestinian flag over the balcony.

The event concluded with Cartwright arguing that humility is the key to civil discourse and Russell reminding the audience that shouting is not the way to find common ground.

Commons changes address aesthetic and function

by Kristina Meyers '27
STAFF WRITER

Following spring break, students were welcomed back to campus with many new renovations to Hamilton's dining halls. Perhaps most striking at first glance is the repainting of Commons Dining Hall and the addition of flags to the rafters. The space was painted in a light beige color that lgives the room a more airy atmosphere. Angeline Schafer, who previously served as the Catering Director for Hamilton for the past 5 years and took over as Director of Operations in Feb., noted a collection of other improvements that have taken place due to the renovations that went beyond aesthetics.

Schafer says that Hamilton, not Parkhurst Dining, was responsible for the decision to repaint the interior of Commons and incorporate flags into the dining hall's design. However, Parkhurst was involved in some of the recent layout changes. The V2 station of Commons, which serves vegan options, switched places with Inspired Eats, the allergy-friendly station. This switch was requested both by the Hamilton student body and the dining staff at Parkhurst. This change allowed a larger physical buffer zone between the Allergen Friendly station and the rest of the food served. Along with this change, the V2 station is now located next to the grain bowl station, which allows even easier access to vegetarian and vegan foods.

Another small, yet significant change, can be seen in the raising of some of the serving stations. Certain food cages, stalls that food is served from in the dining halls, such as the Commons Spoon and Fork Station, have been elevated a couple extra inches to allow an easier reach to the serving trays for both staff and students when the station is self-service. The implementation of this change aims to make the stations more accommodating and easier to navigate for everyone.

According Schafer, no other renovations are expected to take place between now and the end of the school year, especially with the increase in activities and demands on the dining service in the spring months. However, it is expected that more changes will be coming over the summer months, but details on this are unknown.

Everything up to this point has happened to make the dining experience "friendlier…and easier to navigate," Schafer says. The hope with these changes is to create a more welcoming space for students to both come together as a community and eat in the dining halls. In order for students to make their voices heard, Schafer encourages students to reach out to Parkhurst through the links posted on fliers in the dining halls, along with coming to the SGA Dining Committee meetings. These meetings are held weekly and open to all. Anything is welcome to be brought to the attention of Parkhurst, from suggestions about potential dishes to comments or concerns about the dining options.

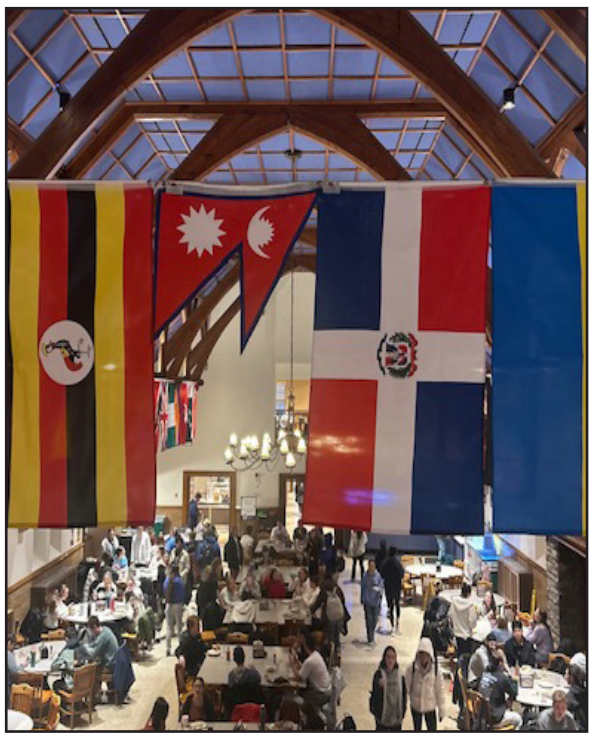

PHOTO BY MIA ANTONINI '26

The flags have made their return to Commons Dining Hall after roughly 2 years.

April 4, 2024

Hamilton puts Narcan® in residence halls

by Catherine Vogt ’24
STAFF WRITER

In a campus-wide email sent out March 25, Director of Community Health Promotion, Katie Cowen, and Associate Vice President for Student, Jeff Landry, informed the College that naloxone, more commonly known as Narcan®, will be available in all residence halls.

When asked about the benefits of having Narcan® available to students, Cowen stated that “I am hopeful that this initiative will help to increase awareness of naloxone as a resource, as well as a greater understanding of how and when to use it. Students can take a look at the online training video or sign up to attend in-person trainings as they are available. The SGA Health Committee has been a real partner in supporting these efforts. Beyond benefiting the campus community, I’m hopeful that students will take this education and carry it with them to be able to help another in an emergency, just like CPR training.”

Cowen also reflected, “I continue to be in awe of how this campus community seeks to support each other. When I’ve talked to students, staff and faculty about this initiative, there has overwhelmingly been a response of wanting to learn more or participate in training in service of one day helping someone in need. It’s lovely to be a small part of this.”

Narcan® is a life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. The drug is administered by placing the tip of the nozzle into a nostril and spraying the dose of Narcan®.

The signs of an opioid overdose are slow or no breathing at all, making gurgling noises, blue/gray colored lips and unresponsiveness. Narcan® should be administered immediately if the person is not responsive to stimulation, such as shaking. Narcan® wears off after 30-90 minutes so it is imperative that additional medical aid is given. Following administering Narcan®, one should call Hamilton College's Emergency Medical Services (HCEMS) and Campus Safety officers at 315-859-4000 for additional support.

It is important to recognize that those who administer Narcan® will not face legal ramifications for being around opioids because of the Good Samaritan Law and Medical Amnesty policy that is in place at Hamilton. Campus community members can also request free fentanyl and xylazine test strips through the mail. More information can be found on the Health Center’s website under the “Naloxone (Narcan®) Availability” section.

Aliana Potter ’24, a Health Promotion intern at the Johnson Center for Health and Wellness, said “there was clearly significant interest in the training from all parts of the campus. It’s definitely a great step in improving student safety to have these trainings and to have easy access to Narcan®.”

PHOTO BY ERIN MERENICH '26

A Narcan® Opioid Overdose Kit is on the wall of the first floor of Root Residence Hall.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

Thursday, March 28
7:28 a.m.— Complaint — 67 College Hill Road
8:11 a.m.— 2% Trouble Alarm — Alumni Gym
9:58 a.m. — Security Alarm — Babbitt Residence Hall
9:19 p.m. — Parking Complaint — Beinecke Village: Howard Diner
10:46 p.m. — Trouble Alarm — C.A. Johnson

Friday, March 29
3:27 a.m. — Assist — Parking Lots: North Lot
9:49 a.m. — Fire Alarm — C.A. Johnson
2:49 p.m. — Concern For Welfare — Dunham Residence Hall
9:46 p.m. — Assist — Dunham Residence Hall

Saturday, March 30
0:46 a.m. — Parking Complaint — Campus Road Athletic Fields
1:46 a.m. — Medical Emergency — Commons Dining Facility
4:32 p.m. — Medical Emergency — Commons Dining Facility

Sunday, March 31
4:01 a.m. — Medical Emergency — Commons Dining Facility
6:45 a.m. — Medical Emergency — Dunham Residence Hall
6:16 p.m. — Area Check — Griffin Road
11:24 p.m. — Noise Complaint — Johnson Center for Health and Wellness

Monday, April 1
0:39 a.m. — Concern for Welfare — Keehn Residence Hall
7:22 p.m. — Assist — Milbank Residence Hall
11:18 p.m. — Concern for Welfare — Milbank Residence Hall

Tuesday, April 2
11:10 a.m. — Motorist Assist — Minor Residence Hall
5:55 p.m. — Animal Complaint — North Campus
6:07 p.m. — Area Check — Parking Lots: 95 College Hill Road
8:53 p.m. — Assist — Parking Lots: Maj/Mac/Minor Lot

Wednesday, April 3
12:25 p.m. — Fire Alarm — Sage Ice Rink
3:14 p.m. — Area Check — South Residence Hall
5:00 p.m. — Assist — Woollcott House

Dear Hamilton Community,

As the school year begins winding down, there are plenty events happening around campus to take your mind of the increasing workload. From spring sports to pub nights, activities of all kinds abound in the coming days and weeks.

Need to have your own *High School Musical* moment? Pub has the solution for you…Karaoke Night! Mosey on down to the pub on Thursday, April 4 at 8:00 p.m. and have your *HSM* moment (even though you're in college).

The folks at the Climbing Wall are throwing a Cave Rave! Show up for an electric late-night climb with glowsticks on Friday, April 5 at 9:00 p.m., at the Rockwall.

Women's lacrosse is taking on Trinity this Saturday, April 6 at noon. Make sure to stop by Steuben Field to watch the Contentials play! At the same time, you can wander over to the softball field and catch the softball team playing against Colby.

After Dark is hosting an out-of-this-world Starry Night Ball this Saturday, April 6 at 9:00 p.m. Dress up in theme and come to the Events Barn to have a magical night of dancing and fun!

The 15th Annual Milton Marathon is taking place this Sunday, April 7, at noon. Join along to hear readings of Milton's classic, *Paradise Lost*. It goes on all day, so feel free to stop in whenever! Anyone can read if they would like!

On Monday at 1:30 p.m., gather at Burke Library for an all-campus event to watch the solar eclipse! Make sure you bring your eclipse glasses and maybe even a lawn chair! The next time this happens will be in 2079…not sure you'll make it? Go to Burke!

Sincerely,
The Spectator

The Spectator

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Celebrating 157 years,
we *were first published as* The Hamilton Campus *in 1866.*

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

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Advice column: end of semester tips

by Meg Stroup '26 and Sarafina Madden '26

FEATURES EDITORS

I don't really know where to eat when I want to go out with my friends. What local spots should I check out?

There are actually a ton of local spots within around a twenty minute drive! If you and your friends are looking to recover from a late weekend night, the Raspberries Diner has all of the classic American brunch foods, with an 80's feel and pretty reasonable prices. Also in New Hartford, Mitsuba Ramen and Sushi are both great options. Mitsuba Sushi is very reasonably priced and has complimentary sushi as an appetizer—this was a huge selling point for us. It is right next to The Marquee Cinema, so it could be a fun post dinner activity or of course you could grab some delicious froyo afterwards at Sweet Frog. Mitsuba Ramen has great boba and sits right next to a delicious bundt cake shop—they always have samples. Try the snickerdoodle bundt cake! You have probably already heard of the local classics—Deli Taco and Rio Grande Tex Mex—but both are great options. I would say that Tex Mex has a better ambiance for a larger group of friends, while Deli Taco has a more intimate cozy atmosphere. Try out Pho Vietnam. They have amazing vegetarian Pho options and the portions are huge for the price.

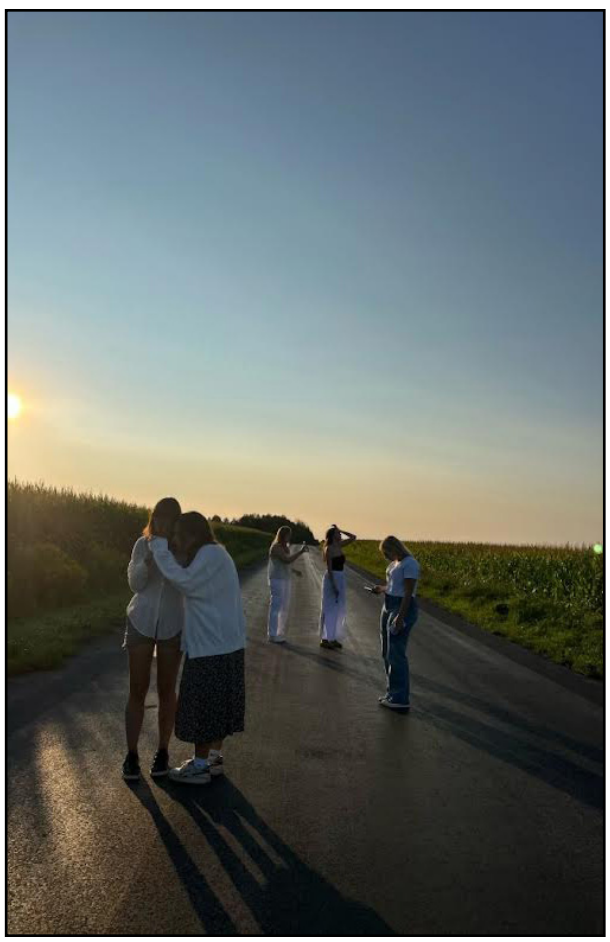

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEG STROUP '26

Students wander on G-Road to enjoy the sun.

I'm losing motivation for my work as finals season approaches. What are some healthy ways for me to unwind on campus?

It is a pretty universal experience to feel burnt out towards the end of the semester with the weather getting nicer and work feeling less and less necessary. On a warm afternoon post class, a walk in the Glen could be a perfect way to unwind. There are two trails by the Glenview parking lot, and another couple trail entrances on Minor Field. These trails are short but scenic and there are a couple of benches dispersed throughout the trails which can be great spots to read or chat with a friend. You may have heard of the "Bab Pav cookouts" but Minor Field can also just be a great place to play spike ball with your friends. If you do not have a kitchen in your dorm, head over to the DMC kitchen and have a dinner party with your friends. Make some pasta and garlic bread and enjoy some fine dining. Late night diner always has a chill ambience and is a great environment to unwind with friends.

I'm feeling tired of the food options at the dining halls. Any thoughts on how to spice up meals?

Time to get creative! For breakfast or lunch, make fried rice at the egg station—white or brown rice with soy sauce on the skillet topped with two eggs, and some ham and onions! Also, the panini press has made a return to Commons! I always go for the classic ham and cheese with pickles and honey mustard. However, if you're really going to commit, you could slice up the grilled chicken with some pesto mayo and tomato slices! An idea for a healthy breakfast is an egg white omelet. Crack an egg separate egg whites into a bowl. Fry up with spinach, opinions, cheese and tomato. Toast some whole wheat bread and you have a delicious and sustaining breakfast! Let's not forget sweet treats. You could try toast with peanut butter, bananas and chocolate chips. I've recently been in a straight up white bread with butter and jam, kick. Also, if you mix sprite and cranberry juice you'll get a make-shift shirley temple. Also, don't sleep on the hot chocolate. Do not miss the gluten-free desserts in Mcewen. They're in the back corner of the salad/yogurt bar area and are actually better than the regular desserts (try the Chocolate chip cookies). Another fun treat idea: slice a banana, put a little butter in a pan, and fry them up. Scoop of vanilla ice cream on top, and you have a warm dessert. Or mix oreo pieces and peanut butter in a bowl and add a dollop of fresh (somewhat) whipped cream and you have peanut butter pie!

I'm getting sick of Pub every Friday and Saturday. How can I shake up my weekend?

Get some blankets and snacks and set up a movie in a classroom in List or KJ. Go support our student athletes this weekend! Head down the hill on Friday night for Chabad dinner at the Sands Chabad House at 6:30 p.m. This Saturday, watch the women's tennis team face off Bowdoin at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Or at 12 p.m. Saturday, go watch women's lacrosse take on Trinity. While you're out and about at athletic festivities stop in at the DMC at 12 p.m. for their Planti-ful Pancake Brunch with plant based pancakes and toppings! Saturday at 7:30 p.m. watch the contemporaneous musical ensemble perform in Schambach Hall. If you want to get off campus for a little adventure, head to Yoga Shala in the Clinton village on Saturday for either their "Sweat and Surrender" or "All Levels Flow" class, both at 10:30 a.m.

I'm a graduating senior and I'm feeling sad about having my last experiences on campus. How can I enjoy this period rather than just await graduation?

Senior spring is both exciting and daunting, and as sophomores, we are definitely lacking in wisdom. But we have some ideas about how you might enjoy the rest of your time at Hamilton. It might be nice to reach out to people you haven't spoken to in a while or professors you haven't taken classes with lately. Journaling about how your feelings might help to take some anxiety away. Go on walks and soak up your favorite spots on campus. Share wisdom with underclassmen about how they can make the most of their time at Hamilton. Enjoy your favorite restaurants in the area. Try out orders at diner that you've never tried before. Make senior T-shirts with your friends. Listen to some of the songs you listened to during your previous years at Hamilton. Write thank you notes to your professors or people who have impacted you during your time at Hamilton.

April 4, 2024

Senior Reflections: Lizzie Herr

By Sarafina Madden ’26
FEATURES EDITOR

Welcome to *The Spectator* Features Section’s new series: Senior Reflections. Each week until graduation we will be interviewing seniors and asking them to reflect on their four years at Hamilton. This week I sat down with Lizzie Herr ’24.

How do you feel with graduation nearly six weeks away?

“I think a lot of my friends and I have discussed how graduating isn’t that scary, it’s more just like sad leaving this environment behind. Leaving all the relationships and communities that we have on this campus behind is the sad part. Of course there are moments where it’s like, oh it’s scary to graduate, like what’s next? But I think I’ve had enough moments of being an adult over my four years of living by myself in two different cities. It’s sad to say goodbye but I know that I’m prepared for what comes next.”

Do you feel like you’ve changed over the course of your time at Hamilton?

“I think I have definitely changed a lot. The first thing I think about is just how much my perspective has widened and how I’m so confident that I’ll never be done learning. Learning about lives and perspectives so different from mine through classes here has been really wonderful. I think Hamilton is a very friendly environment, much friendlier of the environment than my high school and that encouraged me to be my more true outgoing self and definitely quirkier self. Yeah, getting a little weirder. Weirder people are more interesting!”

What advice would you give to students in the grade below you about how to get the most out of their Hamilton experience?

“Take advantage of opportunity. I say this to a lot of prospective students as well in my job, that there’s so much going on here at all times that you simply can’t do all of it, and making those choices is sometimes the hardest part. But, making an occasional choice to show up to some programming that usually wouldn’t be a part of your daily life is such a privilege. Also, never close yourself off to new relationships. I think my bubble of Hamilton friends has just expanded every single semester, which is great.”

What makes Hamilton special?

“The community. The open curriculum is really wonderful and sets up a really awesome classroom environment because everyone that’s in your classes wants to be in your class. It creates a really lively and vibrant classroom environment but I also think the culture of the open curriculum carries into activities outside the classroom. I think people are very encouraged to try new things outside of the classroom, which is the experience I had in joining rugby. I know a lot of people here that do something that they never thought they would have done in high school.”

What has been a meaningful extracurricular experience at Hamilton?

“I’ve really enjoyed just being on the long form investigative team on *The Spec*. Because of my admissions job, I’m always promoting Hamilton, which is really exciting, because I do love it here, but I also think showing my love for the community is also thinking about how the community can improve. I’ve been able to reflect on how lucky I am to be here, but also ask, how can I make the knowledge about how this campus has formed and the origins of the campus and where we need to improve, more accessible to students and faculty?”

Is there a particular moment that you remember when you realized that Hamilton was a place that you belonged?

“There totally was, and it was really early on. As a Jan, when we started, we had a four day quarantine where we had to get two negative tests. So we were in our rooms doing virtual programming for orientation. But then we finally got out of testing and we still had our masks on outside but the whole Jan group went to go snowshoeing. And it was one of those moments where you’re just like chatting with all these people and it was just so exciting, especially post pandemic. I think in that moment, snowshoeing, I was being shown all the wonderful different personalities. And the fact that everyone wanted to do this and be together even though we didn’t know each other.”

What are three of your favorite memories at Hamilton?

“In the fall of this year, my friends hosted a corn dog party. We had a grill out, and we had this awesome barbecue situation, and played games, and that was like a really fun way to come back and celebrate being back as seniors. Second memory was my first rugby game ever in Ithaca, and it was so hilarious because we were playing on turf, and that’s terrible. This was only our second week playing rugby. I remember we went to Wegmans after to get lunch and we were like, that was crazy. One time I pranked my roommate who’s kind of introverted and doesn’t like attention and we got her a buffergram in McEwen and it was just a really funny moment.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZZIE HERR '24

Lizzie Herr ’24 reflects on her time in an interview with Sarafina Madden ’26.

What are you excited about for post-grad?

“I feel like it’s taboo to talk about what you're excited about but we should. Okay, it makes me sad, but I’m also excited to be a stranger again. I’m excited to meet new people who’ve had very different experiences. I think I’m definitely excited to see what Hamilton looks like post-college as well. A lot of my friends and I had this great moment abroad where we did kind of a big reunion in Amsterdam. We were like, okay, this is great because these friendships will continue to exist beyond this campus. I feel excited to see Hamilton people out in the wild for sure. I’m also excited to be challenged and try out a bunch of different work environments. I have a lot of things I want to do career-wise so I’m excited to see what fits and what doesn't fit.”

April 4, 2024

Alumni reflect on their careers in law

by Clara Bennett '27
STAFF WRITER

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The Career Center hosted alumni on April 1 to discuss their law careers and Hamilton experience.

On April 1, Hamilton alumni Avery Morgan '22, Matthew Marks '05 and Kate Brouns '17 joined students and faculty to discuss their respective career journeys in the field of environmental policy and law.

The panelists began by discussing an overview of their career paths, which, in the case of Marks and Brouns, was not always geared toward environmental policy. Marks described his time after Hamilton as his "wayward years," as he was unsure what to do with his world politics degree, his analytical mind and his passion for the environment. Eventually, he attended Vermont Law School and explained how it helped him focus these aspects of his life and channel it into one ultimate goal: working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He was able to secure a 2L (second year) summer internship with the EPA in their office of general council and was offered a job after law school.

Marks has worked with the EPA full-time for 12 years now—at first in the Air and Radiation Law Office and now as the Deputy Associate General Counsel. He supervises the attorneys in the office that advises the agency on all areas relating to the Clean Air Act. He acknowledged the common criticism that "working for a big firm is like working for the bad guy." However, Marks assured that is not the case. He recognized the powerful environmental statutes that are coming from the EPA and their task of implementing and enforcing the laws congress passed. Marks knew he wanted to "be at the center of that action" and "implement big unique environmental laws that form the foundation of environmental laws around the world."

Brouns was also unsure of what to do directly after Hamilton. She studied math and minored in physics and comparative literature. She joked, "I am doing something now that is completely different, so it that's you, don't worry." For Brouns, her "nontraditional path" toward environmental policy began with her job at an independent Boston bookstore. She recalled an event with Naomi Klein, an environmental activist whose quote "it just so happens that we are all alive at the last possible moment where changing course means saving lives at an unimaginable scale," gave Brouns the "kick" she needed. She went on to explain how those words pushed her to pursue her masters in environmental policy. After graduating, she started working for Renewable Northwest, which is "a nonprofit that represents a lot of clean energy developers." Her current position as the Washington State Policy Manager allows her to explore both policy and legislation as well as work in the regulatory sector. She explained how Jan. to April is the legislative session, "which means I drive from Seattle to Olympia to meet with state reps and Senators and educate them on clean energy, give the feedback, testify during committee hearings about organization's advocacy," and ensure that laws are functioning in the way they are made to.

Morgan, on the other hand, had a long-held interest in environmental studies, which she majored in during her time at Hamilton. She also worked as a sustainability coordinator, which allowed her to "have [her] hands in different pots," and work on projects concerning goals like carbon neutrality.

In the summer before her junior year, she got her "first taste of what it looks like working for local government," interning in Palo Alto and working on green infrastructure products. This experience allowed her to engage in playspace work that was tangible and felt accessible to her. Morgan explained that as a people-oriented person with a focus on the environment and a desire to work with people, her job as a Volunteer and External Affairs Coordinator for the Rose Kennedy Greenway perfectly aligns with her strengths and interests. She coordinates volunteer efforts, development, philanthropy and connects people back with the land. Her position "keeps businesses and individuals in the downtown area" by maintaining the greenway as an ecological space and a "huge pollinator ribbon in the middle of downtown."

All of the panelists share their gratitude for Hamilton's preparation for their career. Ultimately, they stress the value of their writing skills. As Marks explained, "good writing can take you anywhere," and Hamilton's emphasis on writing taught him how to "write persuasively, concisely and clearly, [which] is a huge piece of what we do."

April 4, 2024

Why I am confident about the New York Jets' future in 2024 and beyond

by William Rampe '24
OPINION EDITOR

Being a Jets fan is rarely easy. A season of significant promise went up in flames after only four short and infamous snaps by future Hall-of-Fame Quarterback Aaron Rodgers. This left two recent failures—Nathaniel Hackett and Zach Wilson—responsible for manning an offense that needed to be at least slightly below average for the Jets to be competitive. They could not even muster basic competence, garnering one of the worst offensive seasons in NFL history according to some metrics and once going 13 straight quarters without scoring an offensive touchdown. Their star-studded defense was the team's saving grace (or greatest detriment according to fans of tanking), but they could not will the team to success. As Troy Aikman aptly put it, "The Jets are a bad team with a great defense." Despite this disappointment, calls for regime change were unheeded by Jets Owner Woody Johnson, who gave Head Coach Robert Saleh and General Manager Joe Douglas his blessing to return for 2024 midway through the 2023 season. Notably, this blessing came after Aaron Rodgers's appraisal of both on the Pat McAfee show, a possible coincidence but more likely a concession. With all this consistency after a season of mediocrity, what is there for Jets fans to be excited about?

One of the largest misconceptions about the 2023 Jets was the notion that they somehow "won the offseason," a title traditionally given to teams that grab the attention of fans and media after exciting player acquisitions. The Jets got a four-time MVP in Aaron Rodgers, but almost nobody else. Their only other notable free agent signing was infamous foot-fairy Allen Lazard, and they spent their first-round draft pick on a rotational pass rusher in Will McDonald IV—a player with exciting potential but lacking the size to be an every-down lineman. Protecting Aaron Rodgers became the responsibility of old man Tackle Duane Brown, who, of course, was injured by week three, the overpaid Guard Laken Tomlinson, who, of course, was not as good when not playing next to Trent Williams, and Tackle Mekhi Becton, who had missed the last two seasons with injuries, among others. None of this is to say that the Jets would not have been better with Aaron Rodgers, but it is clear that their offense needed significant work.

Joe Douglas has put in that work this offseason. For the offensive line, he signed Tyron Smith, an All-Pro offensive tackle, for a one-year, incentive-laden contract with only $6.5 million guaranteed and traded for Morgan Moses, who has been a solid starter for the Baltimore Ravens since the Jets let him go in free agency two years ago, for only a 6th round pick and a 4th round pick swap. Although both players are 33 years old, they are on short-term contracts that fit with the Jets' win-now window, and at least Moses does not have a significant history of injuries. In addition to these solid starters, Douglas took a shot at Guard John Simpson, a player who struggled with penalties last year but is a mauler in the run game and has the potential to be a solid starter. Along with last year's 2nd-round pick, Center Joe Tippman, and versatile Guard Alijah Vera-Tucker, an offensive line with Simpson as its weakest link has the chance to be special.

Douglas has also taken a stab at providing more weapons for Aaron Rodgers by signing Wide Receiver Mike Williams, a contest catch demon and downfield threat. Although Williams tore his ACL early last year and is projected to miss most of training camp, the upside of this signing is exciting. Running Back Breece Hall and Wide Receiver Garrett Wilson are superstars at their positions, but nobody besides their fantasy owners wants them to receive every touch and target for the sake of their longevity. Of course, the Jets still need another receiver and depth at the offensive line to avoid a situation where Allen Lazard and last year's 4th-round pick at offensive tackle, Carter Warren, become starters by week three, but this is where the draft and early-summer free agent signings come into play.

While work is still needed on the defensive side, especially at safety, this coaching staff has proven its ability to develop talent, such as 2023 all-pro Linebacker Quincy Williams and 2022 1st-round pick Defensive End Jermaine Johnson. Additionally, Douglas recently addressed a potential hole at pass rusher—brought about by their abysmal management of pass rusher Bryce Huff's contract situation, leading him to leave for the Philadelphia Eagles in free agency—through a trade with the Eagles for Haason Reddick, a pass rusher who has had over ten sacks every year since 2020, for only a 2026 3rd-round pick that can become a second. With Reddick and Defensive Tackle Quinnen Williams leading the Jets' defensive line, along with the cerberus of conerbacks Sauce Gardner, D.J. Reed and Michael Carter II holding down the back end, their pass rush should be able to dominate their opponents.

One of the best parts about this active offseason by Joe Douglas is the flexibility it gives the Jets in the draft. Instead of being forced to draft a player with the intention of immediately starting him, they can let the board come to them and pick the best available player at an important position. Georgia Tight End Brock Bowers would certainly be an exciting spark to the offense, but drafting a receiver like Washington's Rome Odunze or a tackle like Oregon State's Taliese Fuaga provides great depth at positions where starters are likely to miss time if injury history provides any information. They could also trade down in the first round and recoup a second-round pick, which they lost in the trade for Aaron Rodgers. None of these options are guaranteed but the fact that the Jets have options increases the chances that Joe Douglas will pick the right player instead of feeling forced to pick a lesser player to fill a significant need.

Furthermore, there is no clear juggernaut in the AFC East. The Buffalo Bills went on a fire sale this offseason to get out of salary cap hell, most recently trading Wide Receiver Stefon Diggs to the Houston Texans. Despite losing star Defensive Tackle Christian Wilkins to the Las Vegas Raiders, the Miami Dolphins remain a strong team, but should not scare anyone after choking away the division title last season. The New England Patriots have almost no significant playmakers on either side of the ball. If the Jets remain largely healthy, they should be in play to win their first division title since 2002.

Projecting a team's record this early in the offseason is impossible due to the potential for injuries and improvements made through the draft. But Jets fans should feel cautiously optimistic that the team can win a lot of games this year based on the attitude with which Douglas has approached free agency. In the end, it will likely come down to Aaron Rodgers; if he can stay healthy and play at the high level he achieved earlier in his career, the Jets could win the AFC. If not, they will likely remain hovered around .500, even with a more competent backup Quarterback in Tyrod Taylor.

The collaboration behind "Circulatory System"

by Sylvia Woodbury '27
STAFF WRITER

There is a reason artists are thought of as solitary creatures. The canon of art history is a story of tense rivalries and thorny friendships, fraught with petty insults and fallings-out: Michelangelo and Da Vinci, Van Gogh and Gaugin, Manet and Degas, Picasso and Matisse. But it is also a story of mutual influence. Group exhibitions reveal markedly similar palettes, composition and subject matter— the startling, deep yellow coloring Van Gogh and Gaugin's portraits, or the dissociated, decoupled bodily forms of Picasso and Matisse. Collaborative artworks, then, induce interrelated inspiration and rich reciprocities in form and theme but are frequently limited by ego clashes and infighting. At best, formal elements are distinct, yet fluid; at worst, fragmentary and muddled. The danger of argument and betrayal is omnipresent.

The aptly named "Circulatory System," an exhibit of Hamilton students' work sat the Kirkland Art Center in Clinton, is a breath of fresh air. Three pieces are directly collaborative, and two others display varying interpretations on the same material and conceptual themes. The space itself is open and airy, with the works arranged in a rough circuit; each piece responds to the previous, so that the exhibition in its entirety is synthesized through movement, vitalizing and empowering itself in a continually renewing cycle.

In form and composition, if not always in subject, the paintings and sculptures gesture toward landscape. A collaborative mixed-media piece— densely layered with black-and-white scribbles, tiled streams of tissue paper and occasional flares of red —resembles an apocalyptic terrain. Yet the piece also seems a scene of under-sea darkness, teeming with animal life and vegetation— several lacy jellyfish appear, as well as curling fronds and whirls of white paint, suggesting whirlpools or currents. The piece is potent with shifting symbology and almost topographical in its interplay between texture and shape.

The following piece, crafted in copper wire, is cooler, more composed and more uniform, without the frenetic energy of the previous. Yet it is richly heterogenous. Wall-mounted chains, nets and loops accompany twisted flowers and crowns, varying in size, construction and placement. Each was fashioned individually by a member of a twelve-person team, then mounted in ensemble on location. "We learnt to listen carefully to how the wire communicated with each of us while crocheting, knitting, and giving form to copper," says Nana Hayrumyan '27. Copper wire is woven into thick, heavy mats, or is used sparingly to produce semi-weightless forms, seemingly uninhibited by gravity. Hovering copper constructions seem planetary and ethereal, evoking a stylized solar system. Both this piece and the previous are reminiscent of vast, enigmatic settings— the depths of sea or space. "As a class, we transcended a material that is in constant circulation— from Space to Earth —a material that cannot be spoken of in the present tense, but fluctuates over time. Copper is a material that is, quite literally, from Heaven," continues Hayrumyan.

The pieces become gradually more composed and delineated as the viewer circles the gallery space. On the opposite wall, nine plywood sculptures, mounted on rectangular wooden frames, are variously geographic, celestial and bodily. Both this series and the copper-wire piece reveal the capacity of a single material to encompass, as well as entwine, multiple artistic visions. In one sculpture (Paige O'Hara), uniformly curved strips of plywood rise sequentially off the frame, reminiscent of rolling hills or human ribs. In another (Maggie Nichols), cocoon-like forms are ringed by plywood bands like microcosmic Saturns. "It was a really interesting process to plan my own piece while also considering the interconnection of the other pieces and how our themes [city/urban, landscape, celestial and ocean/water] would both connect and complement each other," comments Julia Ritzenberg '27. Each sculpture fosters a tension between the limitations of the frame and its bursting overlaid shapes, which, in their dynamic, rhythmic intensity, contribute a sonic feel, like music incarnated in wood. In fact, viewing each sculpture in turn, I was reminded of wood instruments: patches of dried glue and jutting nails convey a scrappiness thats lends the sculptures a functional, rather than decorative, air — a welcome respite from aesthetic parameters which value purity over boldness and beauty over embodiment.

The most figurative piece in the exhibition was a pencil and colored pencil rendering of Clinton's West Park Row as it looked in 1962. Composed of 16 self-contained drawings, each forming part of a building or street, the piece assembles a coherent whole from unique perception and individual style.

None of the pieces are titled, and associated placards offer little information. While a lack of context allows viewers to form their own judgements on the pieces, it also diminishes the presence of their creators. In this exhibit, collaboration is a success. Distinctions between artists are deemphasized in favor of an essential unity of expression. Each work, or series, is complete and coherent, their different facets coexisting in vibrant conversation. Unlike group exhibits of more famous artists, which are sometimes derailed by an overfocus on reputation, this fantastic show was constructed by a group of talented students whose potential far outweighs their egos.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SYLVIA WOODBURY '27

"Circulatory System" is the product of a semester's worth of cooperation between classmates.

“Cowboy Carter” is an American awakening

by Carlisle West ’25
STAFF WRITER

Queen Bey is back in the musical saddle and this time she is coming into the rodeo guns blazing. On March 29, Beyoncé dropped her eighth studio album, “Cowboy Carter,” two years after her last album, “Renaissance.” “Cowboy Carter” has a whopping 27 songs with a running time of 78 minutes, featuring many notable collaborations such as Miley Cyrus, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Linda Martell and Post Malone alongside the vocals of more up-and-coming Black artists, such as Shaboozey, Willie Jones, Tanner Adell, Brittney Spencer, Tiera Kennedy and Reyna Roberts. Furthermore, “Cowboy Carter” features sound bites of many well-known songs by prominent Black artists, such as Son House, Roy Hamilton, Miles Davis, Chuck Berry and Sister Rosetta Tharpe.

Technically speaking, the album is Beyoncé’s first country-based record, but she is quickly proving that it is not the average country album in the average country genre. Through her lyrical brilliance and her platform, Beyoncé is showing that she can use her music as a greater agent of change.

In the opening lines of “American Requiem”— her opening song on the album —Beyoncé addresses criticisms of her exploration into the country genre. Beyoncé sings: “Nothin’ really ends/For things to stay the same, they have to change again/Hello, my old friend/You change your name, but not the ways you play pretend.” These opening verses can be interpreted as both a commentary on the development of the country genre and the reconstruction of racist hierarchical structures. She hints that the reinvention of country music stems from the exclusion of Black artists from the genre, aided further by institutions that pretend to be inclusive but only contribute to the subordination of Black people. Moreover, Beyoncé hints at the double standards that plague Black country artists, especially Black women. She sings: “Used to say I spoke too country/And the rejection came, said I wasn’t country ‘nough/ Said I wouldn’t saddle up, but if that ain’t country, tell me what is?/ Plant my bare feet on solid ground for years/ They don’t, don’t know how hard I had to fight for this.” In these lyrics, it is clear that Beyoncé is constantly subject to scrutiny by others in the country genre and general music industry. However, as evident through “Cowboy Carter,” Beyoncé has come to understand her worth and place in the genre, citing her deep Southern and Black roots as validation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAIR CALDWELL/ PARKWOOD ENTERTAINMENT

“Cowboy Carter” and Beyoncé's last album, “Renaissance,” were released within just a couple years of each other. This is a short period of time between works for Beyoncé.

Moreover, in “American Requiem,” Beyoncé emphasizes how the exclusion of Black Americans extends far beyond the country genre to the structure of America itself. She sings: “Goodbye to what has been/A pretty house that we never settled in/…I am the one to cleanse me of my Father’s sin.” In these verses, Beyoncé uses the metaphor of a “pretty house” to symbolize the America that Black Americans have always aspired to be a part of— one cloaked in patriotism, determination and prosperity. Yet, Black people have never been able to fully integrate into this picture-perfect nation due to the individuals and institutions that purposely excluded them, such as the Founding Fathers that Beyoncé references. However, through her music, Beyoncé is trying to avenge the treatment of Black Americans, asking for accountability and change. In other words, “Cowboy Carter” is not just a renunciation of racist practices; it’s an education as well.

Many of the songs on “Cowboy Carter” speak to Beyoncé’s personal struggles and turning to positivity during difficult times. In her remake of The Beatles’ famous song “Blackbird” (renamed “Blackbird” on “Cowboy Carter”), Beyoncé sings about her unwavering hope through times of adversity. Similarly, in “Just For Fun,” Beyoncé turns to a higher power, asking it to help guide her and find her purpose again in making music. However, Beyoncé knows that she cannot put all her trust in this greater power— she is an agent of her own change and happiness. She sings: “I need to get through this/ Or just get used to it,” an acknowledgement of Beyoncé’s trust in herself and her ability to once again make music that she loves.

Additionally, Beyoncé highlights the pressure she faces both as a performer and mother: In “16 Carriages,” Beyoncé details her early rise to fame and the consistent struggles of tour life. In the first verse, she sings: “At fifteen, the innocence was gone astray/Had to leave my home at an early age/I saw Mama prayin’, I saw Daddy grind/All my tender problems, had to leave behind.” In these lyrics, Beyoncé explains how she had to step into an adult position at a young age to provide for her family, creating a mindset that she could not fail for the sake of those who relied on her. As the song progresses, Beyoncé shows that she continues to apply this mindset to her life, now for the sake of her children rather than her parents. She sings: “It’s been thirty-eight summers, and I’m not in my bed/On the back of the bus in a bunk with the band/Goin’ so hard, now I miss my kids/Overworked and

kids/Overworked and overwhelmed/I might cook, clean, but still won't fold." Once again, Beyoncé's self-sacrifice and self preservation shine through her lyrics. She proves that while all of the odds might be against her, she is willing to do whatever it takes to prove to herself worthy, whether this be in the music industry or in her family.

The second half of "Cowboy Carter" largely centers around Beyoncé's complicated relationship with her husband, Jay-Z and the tensions spurred by Jay-Z's infidelity. While Beyoncé has hinted about her marital woes with Jay-Z in previous albums, such as "Lemonade," "Cowboy Carter" provides further insight into Beyoncés perspective on her marital issues. In her remake of Dolly Parton's well-known song, "Jolene" (titled "Jolene" on "Cowboy Carter"), Beyoncé revamps Parton's lyrics; rather than pleading for Jolene to stay away from her man, Beyoncé warns Jolene not to mess with her or her family. She sings: "We've been deep in love for twenty years/I raised that man, I raised his kids/I know my man better than he knows himself/I know my man better than he knows himself/I can easily understand why you're attracted to my man/But you don't want this smoke, so shoot your shot with someone else." In these lyrics, Beyoncé refuses to let Jolene win. Rather, she reclaims her power, showing Jolene that her husband will always have an allegiance to her over anything else.

However, Beyoncé shows that she will also not settle for her husband's infidelity. In her song "Daughter," Beyoncé sings: "They keep sayin' that I ain't nothin' like my father/But I'm the furthest thing from choir boys and altars/If you cross me, I'm just like my father/I am colder than Titanic water." In these lyrics, Beyoncé emphasizes that while she might not have agreed with her father's practices during her upbringing, she came to understand her worth— something deeply taken advantage of by Jay-Z through his infidelity. In other words, "Daughter" serves as a warning to her husband, cautioning him to not take advantage of her again. In addition to her expression of anger, Beyoncé also mourns the trust between her and her husband —something that can never be reclaimed following his infidelity. In "Flamenco", Beyoncé sings: "I hope you know that I once loved you/I wish that I'd known you'd let me wonder/…Realize that you don't know what you got until it's gone." Beyoncé understands that while she will always love her husband, things will never be the same between them after the way he treated her and lied to her.

Despite her anger and pain related to her husband's infidelity, Beyoncé still remains protective of her relationship with Jay-Z. She details this defense in her song "Bodyguard," where she sings "Be your best friend/I protect you in the mosh pit/And I'll defend you in the gossip." Beyoncé acknowledges that her relationship with Jay-Z is incredibly complex and layered, with a core made out of love and kinship. Only her and Jay-Z will ever know the truth about their relationship, and that is how it shall stay.

"Cowboy Carter" is a narrative performance that transcends boundaries. It is a prototype of what is possible with the amalgamation of different musical intonations and the construction of new platforms for rising artists. Additionally, it is a call for collective action to resist racist historical practices and American institutions. But, above all, it is a reclamation of Beyoncé's power, a restoration of her sense of purpose. On "Cowboy Carter," Beyoncé has finally found the thing she has been searching for all these years: her humanity.

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April 4, 2024

Jannik Sinner is taking over men's tennis

by Owen Lewis '24
SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTURO JIMENEZ/ANADOLU/GETTY IMAGES

Jannik Sinner, the recent Australian Open and Miami Open champion, looks set to make further surges. He is ranked second in the world.

For most of 2023, Jannik Sinner looked to be two steps away from the top of men's tennis. He lost in five sets to Stefanos Tsitsipas at the Australian Open. He blew match points against Daniel Altmaier, then ranked 71 spots below him, to lose another five-setter at Roland-Garros. At Wimbledon, Novak Djokovic had little trouble dismissing Sinner in straight sets. And at the U.S. Open, Sinner fell just short against Alexander Zverev in, yet again, five sets. Sinner is incredibly talented, holding immense power in both his forehand and backhand, but seemed to have some indefinable weakness. Why had he lost all those five-setters? Zverev, Tsitsipas and especially Altmaier were not better players, and Sinner was not wilting physically. He just could not summon the tennis he needed at critical times.

During that period, Sinner watched his rival Carlos Alcaraz, two years younger, beat Djokovic in the 2023 Wimbledon final, and reach world number one. Fast-forward to today: Sinner has won the Australian Open, his first major title, beating Djokovic in the semifinals along the way (Djokovic was previously 10-0 in Australian Open semifinals). He just won the Miami Open. Having lost his first six matches to Daniil Medvedev, who Sinner beat in the Australian Open final, Sinner has now won the last five — and done so in a way that imagining how Medvedev can beat him again is difficult.

Sinner has won 22 of his last 23 matches, the lone defeat a three-set loss to Alcaraz in March. He has been, comfortably, the best player in the world.

There is little in his game to nitpick. In their Australian Open semifinal, Djokovic was uncharacteristically flat, playing his worst big match in recent memory, but Sinner had already beaten Djokovic twice at the end of 2023. When Alcaraz got the best of Sinner, he hit off-pace balls to Sinner's forehand, disrupting that shot's typically awesome rhythm. Sinner failed to adjust, opening himself up to some criticism. Then he turned around and won his next tournament, destroying Grigor Dimitrov (who had taken out Alcaraz two rounds earlier) in the final.

Men's tennis may be at an inflection point. Djokovic, holder of a men's record 24 major titles and is by near-consensus the best player ever, dominated 2023, winning three of the four majors and the year-end finals. This year though, he has finally lost some steam, not only having his Australian Open crown stripped but losing early at the next big tournament, Indian Wells. Alcaraz won Indian Wells, but prior to that, had gone nearly nine months without winning a title.

Sinner has stepped perfectly into the gap by essentially forgetting how to lose. He is now ranked #2 in the world, and with Djokovic seemingly finally starting to decline at 36 years old, looks primed to take over the top spot shortly. Sinner, at 22, only has one younger rival to worry about in Alcaraz.

With the Miami Open over, clay season is coming up. Tennis is unique in that play takes place on a range of surfaces, and performing well on one does not guarantee quality play on another. The great Pete Sampras won Wimbledon on grass seven times and never made it past the semifinals of the clay-court Roland-Garros tournament.

Sinner seems to be that rare player with great surface versatility. His game is incredibly balanced—he is not only incredibly powerful, capable of dominating on slow courts; he is fast and defends beautifully. His volleys, while not outrageously sharp, are easily good enough to be an asset when he needs them. He serves well and returns even better. His winning streak has come on hard courts, but he is a two-time semifinalist at Wimbledon and has pushed, if not beaten, the best clay-court player of all time in Rafael Nadal.

Still, Sinner is somewhat unproven on clay. We are yet to see his new-and-improved form on the surface. While his loss to Altmaier at Roland-Garros last year figures to be an aberration, Sinner must perform better that the 2024 tournament to solidify that impression. Now expectations are higher than ever.

The best players in tennis can rarely relax. Rise above the pack, and everyone starts thinking that much harder about how to tear you down. For now, no one besides Alcaraz (and that was just in their most recent match) seems to have the answers for Sinner, but that could change rapidly. Djokovic has rebounded several times from apparent declines and could easily start winning big tournaments again. Sinner could come down from his incredible stretch—everyone does eventually. For now, though, he is on top of the world.

Women's ice hockey: a season in review

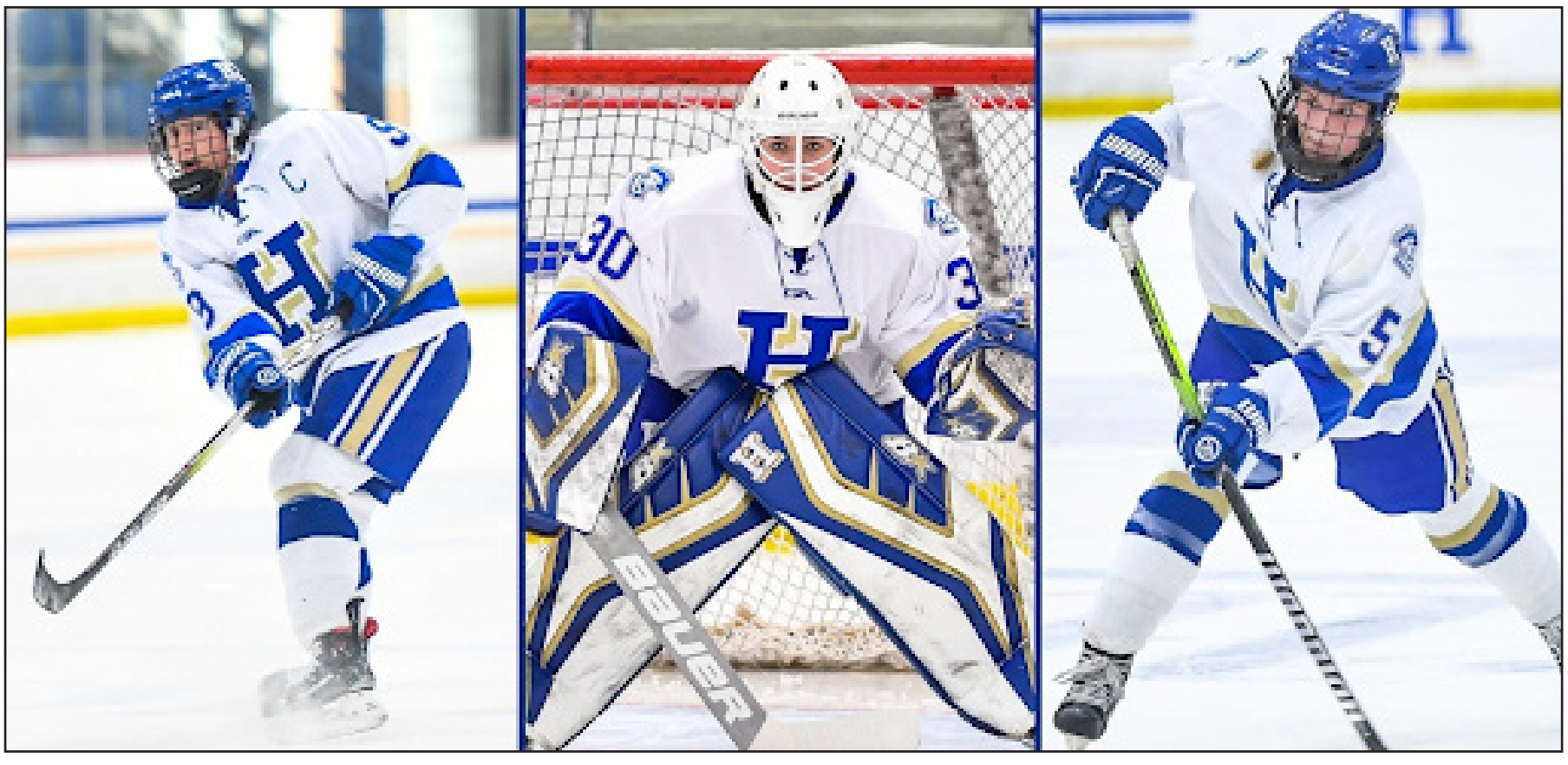
by Caroline Cornely '26
STAFF WRITER

While the Continentals' season may have ended earlier than hoped, the season as a whole was one for the record books. The team had a difficult act to follow after the 2022-2023 campaign, the best in the program's history. That year, the Continentals smashed their previous single season wins record of 16 by going 22-6-2, finished second in the conference standings, played in the NESCAC championship final for the first time, made their first NCAA championship appearance and advanced to the national semifinals. This year the women made the NESCAC finals once again, finished with a final ranking of eighth in the nation and the team won multiple individual awards and achievements, including making the NCAA championship. The team will lose 9 seniors, including the team's two captains, Abby Smith '24 and Bobbi Roca '24. Still, a young core should keep the team competitive for years to come. This was head coach Kayte Holtz's first season in charge after serving as assistant coach since the 2013-2014 season, and she led the team to a great freshman season. The 2023-2024 season was arguably the second-greatest season in Hamilton Women's Hockey history.

Statistically, Claire McGennis '27 led Hamilton with 14 goals this season, finishing her career with 21 goals and 43 points for the Continentals. Smith led the team in points, with 17 alongside five game winning goals. Quackenbush led the team in assists with 12, leading her to be third on the team in points. She ended her career with 33 points on seven goals and 26 assists. The Hamilton defense ranked third in the NESCAC with 1.50 goals allowed per game. Hamilton was second in the NESCAC for power play percentage at .212 and third in shutouts with six over 29 games.

In terms of individual awards, Sami Quackenbush '24 was selected for the 2023-24 CCM Hockey/American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) Division III Women's Hockey All-America Team. The honor is her first and the seventh in Hamilton women's hockey team history. It signifies her as being a top 20 player in the nation. Quackenbush was also a NESCAC first team honoree alongside teammate Smith. This was the first time either had received the honor. Teagen Brown '27 won NESCAC rookie of the year, in part due to her ranking second in the conference among goaltenders in both save percentage (.950) and goals against average (1.14). Brown is the fourth Hamilton player to earn Rookie of the Year and first since Nancy Loh in 2019. 13 players made the 2024 NESCAC Winter All-Academic Team, meaning that they were sophomores, juniors or seniors with a grade point average of 3.50 or higher. Bobbi Roca '24 is a member of the The All-Sportsmanship Team NESCAC team, one of eight Hamilton athletes chosen.

The team finished the regular season 15-6-6, earning themselves the 4th seed in the NESCAC tournament. In the quarterfinal, the team defeated Trinity in a 2-0 shutout. In the semi-finals they faced the defending NESCAC champions, first seed and 3rd nationally ranked Amherst, besting the opposition 2-1. This would lead the Continentals to the NESCAC finals. However, they would fall to second seed and seventh nationally ranked Middlebury 4-0. This performance was good enough to earn the team the second at-large bid to the NCAA tournament. They matched up with Nazareth College in the first round, resulting in a 2-1 overtime win coming off a game winner from Lydia Bullock '26. The Continentals season would end in the next round with a 4-1 defeat to third nationally ranked Adrian in the quarterfinals. Despite the loss, the team ended the season 16-7-6 overall, tied for the second best record in program history and a fourth place finish within the NESCAC in regular season play.



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Abby Smith '24, Teagan Brown '27 and Sami Quackenbush '24, won NESCAC awards.